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Typed or Printed Name	Martha Cisneros		
Signature		Date	12/17/02
<b>AMENDMENT</b> Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  Address to: Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231		Attorney Docket	GUID-012CON
		First Named Inventor	Lawrence W. Hu, et al.
		Application Number	09/900,503
		Filing Date	July 6, 2001
		Confirmation Number	5237
		Group Art Unit	3732
		Examiner Name	Jeffery A. Smith
		Title	SURGICAL RETRCTOR PLATFORM BLADE APPARATUS

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated June 19, 2002 for which a three-month period for response was given, making this response due on or before September 19, 2002. A Three-Month extension of time is requested herewith making the due date to respond by December 19, 2002.

Applicants note that they have submitted a Supplemental Information Disclosure for consideration herewith. It includes copies of the references that the Examiner stated he could not readily locate.

In view of such information and in view of the following, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

**IN THE DRAWINGS**

The Examiner's approval and acceptance of the drawing change proposed in the Amendment filed March 13, 2002 is appreciated. It is believed that no further action by Applicants on this point is required.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please replace claims 8 and 11 with the following:

8. (Amended) A surgical retractor blade, said retractor blade comprising a polymeric body having a first end, a second end, a channel adapted to engage one side of an incision in a patient, and a rail extending along at least a portion of said polymeric body, wherein said first end is adapted for attaching to a separate, complete drive mechanism.

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**GROUP 3600**